

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

Tacoma Landfill (CBSTC)
Tacoma, Washington



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

July 2003

Tacoma Landfill Cleanup Completes Second Checkup

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its second Five-Year Review of the Tacoma Landfill. The new report confirms that the cleanup is working and the remedy protects human health and the environment. The review considered groundwater monitoring, surface water and landfill gas, as well as inspection reports, maintenance reports and community concerns. The first review was done in September 1997.

Some Improvements Suggested by the Review

EPA did identify four areas that need attention to improve the cleanup:

- ◆ Small amounts of methane gas detected at a nearby Home Depot store.
- ◆ Storm water detected leaking through the upper landfill cover.
- ◆ Vegetation and other visual obstructions on the landfill cover.
- ◆ Odor and bird-control problems.



City of Tacoma Solid Waste Utility

What is a Five-Year Review?

To make sure a cleanup continues to protect people and the environment, EPA performs regular checkups on certain Superfund sites.

The Five-Year Reviews gives you a chance to tell EPA about any concerns you have about the site.

A Five-Year Review checks three questions:

1. *Is the cleanup working as well as expected?*
2. *Have any of the technical cleanup guidelines changed?*
3. *Is there new information that should be considered?*

Recommendations for Follow-up Actions

EPA has made the following recommendations as a result of this review. Work on most of these will be done during the summer of 2003:

- Install additional landfill gas extraction wells and seal the stormwater line to the Home Depot store to eliminate methane gas there.
- Test water flows collected in leak detection system and report results.
- Fill to grade (level with adjacent landfill cover) and place a temporary cap in the Central Area (center of the landfill's footprint).
- Revise and fully implement Odor Control Plan.
- Evaluate effectiveness of Bird Management Plan and adjust as necessary.
- Remove visual obstructions, such as vegetation and garbage cans, from the capped surface.
- Complete review of Draft Institutional Control Plan, finalize and implement it. Institutional Controls can include deed restrictions, permitting, monitoring, inspection procedures and maintenance records.

Site Background

The 220-acre Tacoma Landfill is part of the Commencement Bay, South Tacoma Channel Superfund site. It was added to EPA's National Priorities List in 1983. Located south of Highway 16, at the western edge of Tacoma, the site is just south of the South Center St. and South Mullen St. intersection.

During the mid 1980s, groundwater contamination (mainly volatile organic compounds) was detected near the site. Residents with contaminated wells were put on the City of Tacoma public water system. Landfill gas was detected in neighboring residential and business soils.



The City of Tacoma installed more methane gas extraction wells and sealed the stormwater line near the Home Depot store.

The cleanup started using a landfill gas-management system. This system pipes the methane gas produced as a by-product of the landfill to a waste-to-energy facility located on site. There, it is burned to produce energy. In the 1990s, 125 of the 220 acres were capped, and leak-detection and water-collection systems were installed. Later, additional groundwater

extraction wells were built. Existing wells were also rehabilitated to help manage the movement of contaminated groundwater. By 2002, combined water from all groundwater extraction wells met discharge requirements. Monitoring ensures that all discharge goals continue to be met.

The next Five-Year Review for the Tacoma Landfill is scheduled for September 2007. If you have questions or comments before then, please call us.

Copies of the Five-Year Review report
are available at these locations:

Tacoma Main Public Library

1102 Tacoma Ave. S.
(Northwest Room)
Tacoma, WA 98402
Gary Reese
(253) 591-5622

Citizens for a Healthy Bay

917 Pacific Ave., Suite 406
Tacoma, WA 98402
Leslie-Ann Rose
(253) 383-2429
(If information is needed after business hours,
please call for an appointment.)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Sixth Ave.
(7th Floor Record Center)
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-4494

For more information,
please contact:

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Visit the EPA Region 10 Internet home page: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>.

Information about the Tacoma Landfill can be found by clicking on "Index" and selecting "Tacoma Landfill" (part of the Commencement Bay-South Tacoma Channel Superfund site).

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For persons with disabilities: Please contact Lilibeth Serrano-Velez to request reasonable accommodations. For TTY users: Please call the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Lilibeth's phone number. Please allow a one-week notice for special requests.



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Tacoma, Washington July 2003***